

CURIOSITIES
OF
NATURAL HISTORY.

Second Series.

BY

FRANCIS T. BUCKLAND, M. A.,

STUDENT OF CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD; ASSISTANT SURGEON SECOND
LIFE GUARDS; AUTHOR OF CURIOSITIES OF NATURAL HISTORY,
FIRST SERIES, ETC.



NEW YORK:
RUDD & CARLETON, 130 GRAND STREET.
LONDON: RICHARD BENTLEY.

M DCCC LX.

'142 pp.

minded readers will instantly jump to the honest conclusion that this crocodile, who found his burial amid the sands of New Jersey, had, 2,000 years ago, half digested some Roman soldier in the rivers of Africa, ere he floated westward for a new meal, with the poor fellow's last coin still preserved in his maw."—*New York Literary World*, October, 1848.

While thinking about alligators and crocodiles, a letter was put into my hands from my cousin, Charles Buckland, Esq., who holds a high and responsible situation in the Civil Service of India. When he went out, I requested him to record for me all remarkable facts in natural history (and he is no bad observer) which came under his notice. He writes to me as follows:—

“It chances that I am now at Burdwan, where there is a native rajah who keeps a really good menagerie. He has two rhinoceroses, who live in a large walled enclosure, in the centre of which is a reservoir of water, and five crocodiles live in this lake. The said crocodiles are fed with young pigs, which are turned into the

enclosure ; and when, unconscious of their danger, they go down to the water to drink, they fall into the jaws of the grim alligators.' There is however, one full grown pig now in the enclosure, who has grown up there, having survived the perils of his early youth in this dangerous place. It seems that he all at once took a fancy to the rhinoceros, and when the rhinoceroses went down to drink, he went with them, and managed to escape under their legs from the rush of the alligators. Since his first escape, he only goes to drink under the protection of the rhinoceroses, with whom he is on the most familiar terms. I was told that he looks on with perfect unconcern at the fate of the young pigs which are now sent in to feed the crocodiles, and never attempts to associate with them or warn them of their danger."

Now many may think this an unlikely story, but, barring my cousin's observation, I can assert that the pig is one of the most "talented of beasts." I have had conversations with men who have trained "learned pigs," and have